

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, as amended, remain herein. Support for amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in Figs. 1-3B, 5, and in applicants' specification at p. 20, lines 15-25, and p. 25, lines 13-19.

1. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The claims have been amended, mooted the rejection thereof.

Regarding comparing a sum of distances to a threshold, support for this term may be found in applicants' specification at p. 20, lines 7-25. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended, mooted the rejections thereof. Specifically, the claims have been amended to clarify the relationship between the input signals and the signal points. Claim 2 has also been amended to clarify that the "mapping point" is a "QAM mapping point." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.


3. Applicants discovered a translation error between the original PCT international application and the English translation thereof, filed as the text of this U.S. national phase application, as memorialized in the enclosed declaration. The specification has been amended to correct the translation error.

For all the foregoing reasons, all claims 1-15 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

Date: February 27, 2009

  
Roger W. Parkhurst  
Reg. No. 25,177  
Adam C. Ellsworth  
Reg. No. 55,152

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP  
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-1795  
Tel: (202) 429-3000  
Fax: (202) 429-3902

Attorney Docket No.: 28951.2202